

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
March 27, 2018

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

INVOCATION: Pastor Bob Szoke, Impact Christian Church

Mr. Pettit asked for a moment of silence for Merrillville's first Police Chief Lester Sheridan who passed away.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: All members were present.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REMONSTRATIONS:

The Town of Merrillville recognized Innsbrook Country Club with a Commitment of Excellence Award for the most appealing facade for the month of March. Mr. Guernsey presented a plaque to Innsbrook Country Club in recognition of this honor.

Mr. Hardaway thanked all town employees who participated in the peanut butter drive to help the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of the Accounts Payable Register Voucher dated March 27, 2018. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of March 13, 2018. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE:

Mr. Pettit had no report.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Minchuk said the new contract with Waste Management for the furnishing of town wide collection and disposal of residential refuse and recycling has been proposed back to the town. Mr. Sevtanoff said he had a chance to review the contract and that the town council should act accordingly. Mr. Minchuk made a motion to approve the contract and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Minchuk said that Indot sent out a reminder regarding political signage, signs are not to be placed in the intersections or interchanges. If necessary and consider a safety problem they will be removed for further information go to Indot website. Discussion followed.

Mr. Pettit thanked Mr. Lake for his state of the town address. Mr. Pettit and Mr. Lake conferred that there is a roundabout that will be going in on 73rd and Taft. Discussion followed.

Mr. Hardaway informed residents that the state will start working on paving roads on Broadway and 61st all the way through Gary that will start April 30th through June with lane closers. Mr. Hardaway addressed Mr. Spires on an update on the railroad crossing on Harrison Street. Mr. Spires confirmed that he has called and has yet to receive a response and will continue to work on it.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS:

Ms. LaMarca had no report.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:

Mrs. Barron had no report.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mrs. Uzelac reported several phone calls regarding garbage cans being blown into the streets causing it to be unsafe for traffic. Mr. Uzelac said Mr. Spires will be out with a crew to have it taken care of.

Mr. Sevtanoff said he is working on identifying some concerning issues on some of the local hotels in the town of Merrillville. Mr. Sevtanoff reported that he was able to meet with all 8 hotels on March 19th and with Roadway Inn to discuss issue addressed with their facilities. Mr. Sevtanoff said there is a Corrective Action Plan in place for all 8 hotels and all plans should be received within the next 2 weeks. Mr. Sevtanoff said this will hold hotels accountable and cut down calls being made to the Police Department and create a safe environment for visitors coming into the town of Merrillville. Discussion followed.

PARKS & RECREATION:

Ms. LaMarca referred to Jan Orlich for a report. Ms. Orlich presented 3 versions of playground equipment plus cost requested by the town council. Ms. Orlich said that some of the fencing at the park will stay up for safety reasons. Mr. Pettit made a motion to table the park project for a later date. Mrs. Barron seconded the motion.

Representatives from the Arsh Group were present to give a quick overview of the feasibility project and any questions that may arise. Discussion followed. Mr. Pettit made a motion to accept the feasibility study and site from The Arsh Group. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. There was no further discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Pettit made a motion to have Mr. Spires and Ms. Orlich put together some more quotes for the feasibility study to present to the town council. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. Some discussion followed. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:

Mrs. Barron referred to Matt Lake for a report. Mr. Lake provided an update for sunset drainage project essentially the project is complete with the exception of restoration of the landscaping. Mr. Lake said he is preparing items and reports to be audit by FEMA due April 30th. Mr. Lake said the finalizing of the contracts is in process for the Independence Hill drainage and should be starting this month.

ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Mrs. Uzelac had no report. Mr. Hardaway made mentioned of municipal day and the possibility of selecting students from MIS School to participate for the first meeting in May. Mr. Hardaway asked Mr. Spires if he would contact the school principal to see if they would be interested. Some discussion followed.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Pettit said at the redevelopment commission meeting they approved the annual report for 2017. Mr. Pettit said he wanted to have a meeting for an upcoming bond issue but he already discussed it with the members and has cancelled the council workshop meeting for next Tuesday.

UTILITY LIAISON:

Mr. Spann had no report.

ABANDONED PROPERTIES:

President Hardaway had no report. Mr. Pettit wanted to know if any inquires have been made for the Carriage Court property. Mr. Hardaway said at this time abandoned properties is working on it. Some discussion followed.

GENERAL ORDERS:

FIRST READING ORDINANCES:

None

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

None

RESOLUTIONS:

Res. 18-06:

A Resolution authorizing the Town of Merrillville, Indiana to enter into agreements with the County of Lake, Indiana in undertaking community development activities. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Minchuk. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

BZA ACTIONS:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

All public comment is recorded on an audio file and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at Town Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Board of Zoning Appeals meeting, March 28, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.
Town Hall offices closed (except for Emergency Services)
March 30, 2018 in observance of Good Friday
Stormwater Management Board meeting, April 3, 2018 at 4:30 p.m.
Plan Commission Workshop meeting, April 3, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.
Police Commission meeting, April 6, 2018 at 8:00 a.m.
Town Council meeting, April 10, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Mrs. Barron.

Richard Hardaway, President

Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer